

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178269

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SP, PFOR, SOPN

SUBJECT: MANSFIELD COMMENTS OF RFE/RL

1.IN CONTEXT OF SENATE DEBATE,7/22, ON RESOLUTION CONDEMNING INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S EXCLUSION OF RFE FROM COVERING OLYMPIC GAMES (RESOLUTION PASSED 74-0), SENATOR MANSFIELD SAID, QUOTE, I THINK ALL RADIO STATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREELY BROADCAST, BUT WHEN I READ WHERE A REPORT ISSUED BY THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE DISCLOSES CASES OF OFFICE SECRETARIES RECEIVING ANNUAL SALARIES OF OVER \$35,000 AND MIDDLE-RANGE EXECUTIVES \$60,000 TO \$70,000 ACCORDING TO THE GAO, AND IF IT IS CORRECT, THAT AMOUNT IS FAR IN EXCESS OF REGULAR GOVERNMENT PAY SCALES.

THIS REPORT HAS DRAWN SOME CRITICISM. IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS IN THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE, OUR DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE, THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND (MR. PASTORE), WHO, IN EFFECT, HAS WRITTEN A
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PAGE 02 STATE 178269

LETTER TO DAVID M. ABSHIRE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, IN WHICH HE STATES THAT, "THESE ARE SHOCKING FIGURES".

I WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH IN MANY RESPECTS OVERLAP EACH OTHER, AND WHICH THE GAO HAS RECOMMENDED SHOULD BE STATIONED IN THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN IN MUNICH, SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER PRETTY CLOSE REIN AS FAR AS THIS GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED SO THAT THESE MATTERS WILL NOT GET OUT OF HAND.
END QUOTE.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT MANSFIELD STATEMENT AND GAO REPORT REFERRED TO RFE OPERATIONS IN MUNICH ONLY AND IN NO WAY REFLECTED ON RL OPERATIONS IN SPAIN. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION BY GAO, THAT RFE/RL TRANSMITTER FACILITIES SHOULD BE MOVED TO US. KISSINGER

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